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Wick Says Justice Move Was Not A 'Credible Decision'

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WASHINGTON

Charles Z. Wick, director of the U.S. Information Agency, told a Senate panel Wednesday that the Justice Department's recent move to label three Canadian films as political propaganda was not a "credible decision."

Wick, whose agency runs the Voice of America and other U.S. government information programs targeted abroad, said he personally would favor steps by the administration and Congress to amend the 1938 law invoked in the case.

Wick's comments came at a hearing by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sen. Paul E. Tsongas, D-Mass., said the Justice Department move "has not only inflamed the Canadians, it has expanded the viewership of those films probably a thousand-fold."

Wick also was questioned repeatedly about whether the CIA was involved with the Reagan administration's "Project Democracy" intended to foster the growth of democratic ideals and institutions worldwide.

Wick responded that "there is no CIA participation contemplated or presently included ... in Project Democracy."

However, he acknowledged that CIA Director William E. Casey had been present during early discussions of the project among administration officials.

"He (Casey) has been involved with a broad number of administration people discussing the overall threats that the United States faces," Wick testified.

**EXCERPTED**